

Two codes cover underground storage tanks

In BC, new homes getting new oil-burning equipment including underground storage tanks are covered by the BC Building Code and must comply with section 6.2.1.5 (1).

Existing underground storage tanks fall under the jurisdiction of the British Columbia Fire Code. If your client has an underground storage tank on their property that has no further use or has been out of service for two years, such tanks together with connected piping and dispensers, shall:

- a) have all flammable liquids and combustible liquids removed from them;
- b) be purged of vapours; and
- c) except as permitted in some circumstances, be removed from the ground.



If contaminated, soil surrounding the storage tanks must be replaced with clean fill.

Where the authority having jurisdiction determines that it's impractical to remove underground piping, such piping shall have the ends permanently sealed by capping or plugging.

Where storage tanks are to be disposed of, sufficient openings shall be cut in the tanks to render them unfit for further use.

Contact your local fire authority for more information.